



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.												
10/795,789	03/08/2004	Steven J. Svoboda	26.2.D09/USA	7704												
7590 James W. Miller, Esq. Suite 1960 Rand Tower 527 Marquette Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55402		10/04/2007	<table border="1"><tr><td colspan="2">EXAMINER</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">REDDING, DAVID A</td></tr><tr><td>ART UNIT</td><td>PAPER NUMBER</td></tr><tr><td>3723</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>MAIL DATE</td><td>DELIVERY MODE</td></tr><tr><td>10/04/2007</td><td>PAPER</td></tr></table>		EXAMINER		REDDING, DAVID A		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	3723		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	10/04/2007	PAPER
EXAMINER																
REDDING, DAVID A																
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER															
3723																
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE															
10/04/2007	PAPER															

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/795,789

Applicant(s)

SVOBODA ET AL.

Examiner

David A. Redding

Art Unit

1744

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-17, 19-23 and 32-37 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8, 18 and 24-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/20/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1744

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of claims 1-8,26-29 in the reply filed on 7/13/07' is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that claims 18, 24-31 are not distinct from the elected claims. This is persuasive and claims 18,24-31 are rejoined with the elected claims. The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation

Art Unit: 1744

under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-6,8,24,26,27,28,29,30,31, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Black and Decker BV-006 Leaf Collection Systems brochure in view of USP 5,291,722 ('722).

The Black and Decker brochure discloses a leaf collection system comprising a container for holding the leaves with a hose attached to the container and connectable to a blower vac. The container is more vertical than horizontal in dimension.

The '722 patent discloses a cart 10 capable of holding leaves having a bag which is secured to the cart and having an opening which is capable of being connected to a hose. The cart and bag are more horizontal than vertical. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to replace the wheeled container in the Black and Decker brochure with the cart and bag in the '722 patent in view of the known use of the cart and bag in the '722 patent.

Claims 1-5,18,24-29, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Black and Decker brochure in view of USP 4,335,897 (Muller, Jr.) and US 2003/0131435 (Madhat).

The Black and Decker brochure discloses a leaf collection system comprising a container for holding the leaves with a hose attached to the container and connectable to a blower vac. The container is more vertical than horizontal in dimension.

Art Unit: 1744

The Muller, Jr. patent discloses a cart 1 capable of holding leaves. The Madhat publication discloses a leaf bag made from fabric having an inlet directly connectable to a hose, the bag having a zipper for emptying the contents. The cart and bag are more horizontal than vertical. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to replace the wheeled container in the Black and Decker brochure with the cart in the Muller, Jr. patent and provide the bag of the Madhat publication in view of the known use of the bag and cart.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David A. Redding whose telephone number is 571-272-1276. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 6:00 - 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gladys Corcoran-Piazza can be reached on 571-272-1224. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1744

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ David Redding /
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1744

DAR